

Minutes
Human Services Commission
Thursday, November 10, 2005
5:00 P.M.
Kiva – City Hall
3939 Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Present: Chair Dave Bachmann, Vice-Chair Donna Reid, Commissioners Jeannine Berg, Angela Bowers, Clemens Czapinski, Diane Fausel, and Kathleen Hemmingsen

Staff Present: Connie James, Donna Brower, Dawn Cagan, Jan Cameron, Cindy Ensign, Vicki French, Valerie Kime Trujillo and Mary Kay Reike

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bachmann called the meeting to order at 5 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 13, 2005 MEETING

Commissioner Fausel moved to approve the October 13, 2005 regular meeting minutes and Commissioner Czapinski seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION OF TEEN LIFE LINE TOUR

The Human Services Commission discussed their recent tour of Teen Life Line. This agency receives funds from Scottsdale Cares.

Commissioner Berg noted the students that provided the tour for the commissioners impressed her. The program assists the kids and the parents, and provides support to the kids that work there. It was a wonderful program with a lot of solidarity and camaraderie.

Chair Bachmann noted the agency takes in about 5,000 participants annually from all over. They deal with suicide, relationship, substance abuse, and many other issues. They do a fabulous job. Scottsdale Cares has funded them for the last 2 or 3 years.

APPROVAL OF HUMAN SERVICES ISSUES REPORT

The Human Services Commission reviewed the final Human Services Issues Report, packet, and transmittal memo to the City Council. Connie James, Human Services Director, stated the report was presented to the Commission at several meetings in the past. Comments from the Commission have been received and included in the final document. Tonight the final document is being presented. Once the Commission approves the final document along with the Fiscal Year Update it will be sent, along with a transmittal letter to the Council for consideration on a future agenda. Cindy Ensign, Human Services Planner/Budget Specialist, went through the list of changes that were made to the document since October 15th. Ms. Ensign asked for other suggestions or comments from the Commission. Chair Bachmann indicated there were no addition suggestions or comments from the Commission.

Commissioner Hemmingsen moved to approve the Human Services Issues Report as submitted. Commissioner Berg seconded and the motion carried with a vote of seven yes and zero nays.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PRESENTATION

Connie James, Human Services Director, introduced the presenters on domestic violence.

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION TEAM

Domestic Violence Specialist, Tracey Wilkinson of the Scottsdale Police Crisis Intervention Program, updated the commission on domestic violence statistics, trends, and issues in our community.

Tracy Wilkinson noted the Scottsdale PD Crisis Intervention Team would be celebrating their 30th anniversary this year. Ms. Wilkinson distributed a packet that described services provided by the team. Ms. Wilkinson also provided information on the Domestic Violence Response Team and the ways they assist victims. A few years ago, the City purchased the Family Advocacy Center. A brochure was given to the Commission outlining those services. The Domestic Violence Action Team was created and provides immediate services to victims. The team includes advocates, police detectives, city attorneys, probation officers, and county attorneys. The "Breaking the Cycle" booklet was distributed to the Commission along with some resource numbers for local agencies and a brochure on Victims' Rights. Victims' rights are now a state law in Arizona. Ms. Wilkinson noted there are 1400 to 1600 police reports in the City annually. Staff has found that there is not pocket of domestic violence and it does not discriminate. It may occur in a home that sits on an acre property or in an apartment complex. Those who are socio-economically challenged are affected most adversely. Domestic Violence is evasive. Over last several years, the homicide statistics are predominately domestic violence related. While numbers have been stable, the focus is on repeat offenders. An Order of Protection is a legislative issue as the current law is vague. Another trend causing concern is eviction. Ms. Wilkinson displayed the Coordinated Community Action Model.

Chair Bachmann noted that several commissioners have visited the Family Advocacy Center and were very impressed.

CHRYSLIS

Patricia Klahr, Executive Director, updated the commission on domestic violence shelter and services provided through Chrysalis. Ms. Klahr said the City of Scottsdale is to be commended for their involvement in the Domestic Violence issue. In the 1980s, the center was moved every 2 years. As growth occurred, there was a need for a committee, Mayor Drinkwater spearheaded that, and a new shelter was opened in 1991. Ms. Klahr provided the statistics for both the Phoenix and Scottsdale shelters. Staff has noticed women are staying longer in the shelter, maybe a month and a half. Statistics from the state were provided on the numbers that have requested service; 17,839 women and children requested services with 3,795 getting into the shelter. The rest had to be turned away. The legislators increased funding by \$1.5 million. The center is opening up 125 beds on a state level with 75 locally. The City of Phoenix has committed \$6.9 million for homeless and domestic violence victims. The group has purchased property behind the Phoenix shelter hoping for some of that money to provide as much as 50 beds. Chrysalis is very cost conscious with only 12% going to administrative costs. Chrysalis does more than providing a crisis shelter; they provide counseling, case management, and advocacy. Transitional housing is provided for up to 2 years, but the participant must be actively employed or in a vocational or educational setting. Affordable housing is an important issue. It takes 5 to 8 times for a women to leave a domestic violent situation. It should be noted that 95% of victims are women, but there are male victims. Chrysalis has two advocates and an offender treatment program that is a 52-week program. Staff works closely with police and probation. Ms. Klahr gave an example of a success story from the program.

Commissioner Bowers asked what the process is when the center is full. Ms. Klahr said they use the DV Stop program and all shelters are connected by computer and phone. The goal is that the victim has to visit only one shelter or hot line number and that place can find the shelter/bed. If none are available then there is a hotel/motel voucher program. Commissioner Bowers asked what happens with school age kids and their education when they are in a shelter for 1-1/2 mo. Ms. Klahr said they have 3 days to be enrolled in a local school such as Pima, which is the Scottsdale Chrysalis School.

Commissioner Reid asked how many are filing for an Order of Protection. Ms. Klahr noted that not all want to file an Order of Protection. Ms. Wilkinson said she has not seen real data on this issue. Many victims file and receive orders, but the orders are not served for fear the batterer might know where the victim is.

Commissioner Reid asked is that part of the cycle, the "should I" or "shouldn't I?" Ms. Wilkinson said they talk about it as a tool, what are the benefits, what are the drawbacks. Some communities have prosecuted victims for making contact with the offender. Commissioner Reid asked if it is a challenge for

the children to continue their lives. Ms. Klahr noted that a routine is the best thing for the children. The adult often says she can take the abuse but when it starts on the kids then all bets are off. Commissioner Reid asked if that is talked about in counseling. Ms. Klahr noted that they believe education and working with the women is important.

Commissioner Fausel asked if the Scottsdale Charros grant of \$10,000 was specific to Scottsdale. Ms. Klahr said it was. Commissioner Fausel asked what other principal funding the center receives. Ms. Klahr said the center gets funds from the City of Scottsdale, CDBG, and Scottsdale Cares. A list of the funding sources can be provided.

Commissioner Czapinski asked if there is any way more teeth could be put into restraining orders. Ms. Wilkinson said the Scottsdale team and prosecutors work well with each other. Evidence is passed along about prosecutions and they often treat domestic violence like you would a homicide. It often becomes difficult because of the he said she said issue. They work with the victim on providing tools to make the order stronger and enforcement stronger. Ms. Klahr said it is important to note that the computers do not talk to each other between cities.

Commissioner Reid asked what the training is for police officers regarding domestic violence. Ms. Wilkinson said there is curriculum 12 hours specific to Domestic Violence. The Scottsdale Officer Team has 6 to 8 additional hours to provide additional training on what is available in Scottsdale. There are briefing trainings occasionally and officers have the use of the crisis unit. The City of Scottsdale has a card that talks about Orders of Protection. There is a form, which includes information on Orders of Protection.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING DOVES PROGRAM

Alice Ghareib, Director with the Area Agency on Aging, presented information on the DOVES program that provides services to senior residents over age 50 who are in a domestic violence situation. There are specialized services for this population because there is denial, shame, and guilt in this population. The mentality of the man is the king of the castle was ingrained. Less than 10% of this senior population is divorced and the majority of victims are women who suffer in silence. Economics is an important issue for seniors and is the number one reason they stay in a bad relationship. A 1992 survey of transitional shelters in Maricopa County found there was an under-utilization of services for older women. They usually stayed only one night when they did show up. The environment is not suited for older victims. There is Emergency Housing program for up to 2 weeks. Services are on an in-kind basis. Hospitals participate in helping coordinate admission. Late Life Domestic Violence Partners are groups that meet in various locations and talk about issues unique to this population. These women have been isolated for 30, 40, or 50 years of their lives and have never talked about their issues. They feel they cannot become independent. The Agency has developed a special program for this population. Emergency Housing and Transitional Housing programs serve both men and women. The Area Agency on Aging knows about senior issues. This year they are losing \$150,000 of funding so in response the Agency has opened a resale shop at 3621 N. 7th Street on the southeast corner of Weldon and 7th Street. Donations are welcomed.

Commissioner Fausel asked what the ethnicity of the population age 65 and over. Ms. Ghareib said the majority is Caucasian.

Commissioner Bowers asked if the Agency helps with legal services. Ms. Ghareib said hopefully the victim can get into transitional housing and then through intensive case management get services links to services in the community. Commissioner Bowers noted there is also a population that is disabled and/or who have chronic illness and can't get out of house. Are there any services for this population? Ms. Ghareib noted the Agency has a Community Ombudsman program.

Chair Bachmann asked if the Agency provides these updates throughout the community. Ms. Ghareib noted they will go wherever they are invited.

STAFF AND COMMISSION UPDATES

Ms. James thanked this evening's presenters along with staff members Donna Brower for their hard work on these issues and for the presentations this evening. Ms. James noted the next meeting of the Commission will be December 8, 2005 at the City Hall Kiva. The agenda will include presentations on Foster Care.

Donna Brower, Human Services Coordinator, updated the Commission on the following:

Human Services Administration – The Interfaith Network of Scottsdale will host its "3rd Annual Scottsdale Gives Thanks" service on November 22, 2005 at 7 pm at Chaparral Christian Church
Civic Center Senior Center – The new center is about 74 percent completed with an anticipated completion in February 2006. The annual Make A Difference Day on October 22 provided 21 seniors with a day of household chores; the annual Arts and Crafts Fair will be on November 19 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm; the annual Thanksgiving dinner will be in the ballroom on November 18.

Community Assistance Office – FSS held their annual graduation and award ceremony on October 5; Application orientation for CDBG, HOME General Contract and Endowment Funds, and Scottsdale Cares was October 5th; The topic for this month's FSS EVA/Consumer Credit Counseling/AZ Saves meeting on November 15th will be budgeting. **Paiute Neighborhood Center** – Applications for the Shop With A Cop program were distributed on October 28. The After-School Tutoring/Homework Help averages 44 youth daily; the drop-in computer lab averages 87 daily; the After-school program averages 65 daily with a waitlist of 40; recreation averages 48 youth in the evening and the Teen Center averages 35 daily. The National Charity League Fall Festival was at Paiute Park on October 29. **Via Linda Senior Center** – The STOMP program has 14 projects in progress with another 5 to begin in the next few months and 4 home visits are scheduled over the next two weeks; Senior Olympics held a track and field day at the Paradise Valley Community College; The annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner will be November 22. **Vista del Camino** – Registration for the Holiday Adopt A Family is in progress; Temple Solel conducted a food drive in October to benefit the Vista del Camino Food Bank; Vista is seeking turkey donations and food for their Thanksgiving food box distribution. **Youth and Family Services** – two interactive workshops were presented by staff at the library to prepare for the opening of Knowasis, the new teen center at the Civic Center Library; The Mayor's Youth Council will hold its November meeting at Vista Del Camino.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chair Bachmann made an open call to the public for comments/questions/announcements or other business. There were no replies.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be brought before the commission, Chair Bachmann requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fausel moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Reid seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson, Acting Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

Connie James
Director, Human Services